



At Sports Focus Coaching Ltd we have a proud track record of delivering fun and engaging activities for thousands of children every year and we are very clear of our safeguarding responsibilities for children. As an organisation we are also aware that we have a crucial role in safeguarding adults.

We are now actively promoting this to our own employees and all our partners with whom we work to ensure a mutual understanding of the Sports Focus Coaching standards and expectations. Like our Safeguarding Policy for working with children and young people our Safeguarding Adults Policy puts the well-being of all adults as our priority.

Sports Focus Coaching is committed to creating a culture of zero-tolerance of harm to adults which necessitates: the recognition of adults who may be at risk and the circumstances which may increase risk; knowing how adult abuse, exploitation or neglect manifests itself; and being willing to report safeguarding concerns. This extends to recognising and reporting harm experienced anywhere, including within our activities, within other organised community or voluntary activities, in the community, in the person's own home and in any care setting.

Sports Focus Coaching is committed to best safeguarding practice and to uphold the rights of all adults to live a life free from harm from abuse, exploitation and neglect.

This policy document includes recent statutory guidance for all organisations providing services to adults at risk. It sets out how Sports Focus Coaching and individuals should work together to safeguard, encourage and promote the welfare of adults at risk in accordance with the Care Act 2014.

At Sports Focus Coaching we know it is essential that we recognise our Duty of Care to safeguard both adults and children, we are also aware of the different legislation in this area supporting an adult at risk of harm.

We are committed to ensuring that anyone working or volunteering on behalf of Sports Focus Coaching understands their mandatory responsibilities that are set out in this Safeguarding Adults Policy. Everyone has a role to play in safeguarding adults and it is important to understand that safeguarding should not sit in isolation from all other activities within Sports Focus Coaching. Safeguarding is an integral part of all our work, this includes any events where we support our partners. We will actively encourage and promote our safeguarding policy, procedures and good practice guidance to all involved in Sports Focus Coaching activities. This Policy sets out the framework of best safeguarding practice when working with adults. Sports Focus Coaching will uphold the rights of all adults to live a life free from harm, from abuse, exploitation and neglect. Principles Like children, all adults have the right to be protected from abuse, neglect, poor practice and harm, regardless of their age, ability or disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, race, religion, ethnic

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origin, sexual orientation or marital status. Sports Focus Coaching is committed to creating and maintaining a safe and positive environment and an open, listening culture where people feel able to share concerns without fear of retribution. Best practice in safeguarding means committing to not just a legal responsibility but also a moral responsibility.

All staff members employed, or volunteers are expected to uphold and promote the following safeguarding principles:

- The welfare and well-being of each adult is and must always be our priority.
- All allegations and suspicions of harm and poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly, fairly and appropriately and ensuring the adult is at the centre of all discussions and decision.
- All individuals working with adults at risk must champion the right of every individual to participate in sport.
- All individuals will respond to a safeguarding concern or issue in line with the Sports Focus Coaching Safeguarding Adults Policy.
- Staff and volunteers will be provided with safeguarding adults training and development opportunities relevant to their role.
- Sports Focus Coaching recognises the roles and responsibilities of statutory agencies in relation to safeguarding adults and promoting their wellbeing.

We are committed to working together with Adult Safeguarding Boards and Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH) complying with their procedures.

Six key principles have been enshrined within The Care Act 2014 and underpin adult safeguarding applicable to all sectors and settings. The principles should inform the ways in which professionals engage with people at risk of abuse, harm, or neglect:

1. Empowerment - people are supported to make their own decisions. This is a primary difference when working with adults (rather than children) "nothing about me without me".
2. Prevention - it is better to take action before harm occurs.
3. Proportionality - an action should not be more severe than is necessary, working in the best interests of the adult but only being involved as much as required.
4. Protection - Providing support and representation for those in greatest need but to the level preferred by the adult involved.
5. Partnership - Professionals working together in the best interests of the adult. Everyone involved promoting prevention, detection and reporting of neglect and abuse respecting personal and sensitive information.
6. Accountability - The adult understands the role of everyone involved in their life. All professionals and partners are accountable and transparent in their delivery of safeguarding.

These Six Principles underpin the safeguarding of adults in England.

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Our Responsibilities Sports Focus Coaching recognises its responsibilities to protect and safeguard adults.

Sports Focus Coaching will:

- Provide an environment that is healthy, safe and secure.
- Ensure everyone involved with Sports Focus Coaching is aware of the safeguarding adult procedures and knows what to do and who to contact if they have a concern relating to the welfare or wellbeing of an adult.
- Appoint a Lead Safeguarding Officer with overall responsibility for safeguarding and an individual with safeguarding responsibilities at all events or activities.
- Work in partnership with the adults at risk of harm to support their decisions and decision making.
- Establish a safe recruitment process for Sports Focus Coaching led events and activities which includes the management of the criminal record checking process¹.
- Provide appropriate training and support for all staff, partner organisations and agencies where relevant.
- Ensure all safeguarding concerns are responded to in line with Sports Focus Coaching policies, procedures and guidelines and take action when concerns are raised regarding staff or volunteers outside a Sports Focus Coaching event or activity.
- Take disciplinary action against those who breach Sports Focus Coaching policies.
- Share information about anyone found to be a risk to adults with the appropriate bodies. For example: Disclosure and Barring Service, Services, Police, Local Authority/Social Services.
- Undertake an assessment of, and risk to, the safety of all adults from abuse and neglect and designate a person who will be in attendance as a safeguarding lead for that event.
- Ensure consistency and share good practice through the Sports Focus Coaching Safeguarding Strategy Group and monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Safeguarding Adults Policy.

Definitions "Adult at risk of harm" Prior to the Care Act 2014 the terminology "vulnerable adult" was used. This term came from a Department of Health guidance document "

The term "vulnerable adult" and assumed that everyone that had some form of disability was automatically a vulnerable adult. The Care Act 2014 moves away from the terminology 'vulnerable adult' to 'adults at risk of harm', usually shortened to 'adults at risk' or 'an adult with a care and support need'. An 'adult at risk' is an individual aged 18 years or over who has need for care and support (regardless of whether they are receiving them) is experiencing or at risk of abuse and neglect and unable to protect themselves from either the risk or the experience.

Abuse and Neglect Abuse can be a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by another person or persons. Abuse can occur in any relationship and may result in

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significant harm or exploitation. The Care Act identifies the following categories of abuse:

- Self-neglect - not looking after one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings e.g. hoarding.
- Modern Slavery - including slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude.
- Domestic Abuse - including psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional abuse perpetrated by anyone within a person's family. ("Honour" based violence would also be included.)
- Discriminatory - include abuse that centres on a difference or perceived difference e.g. disability, gender, race or any of the protected characteristics of the Equality Act.
- Organisational - includes neglect and poor care practice within an institution or specific care setting.
- Physical - including hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, restraint and misuse of medication.
- Sexual - some examples include, indecent exposure, rape, sexual harassment, sexual teasing or innuendo, sexual acts to which the adult has not consented or was pressured into consenting.
- Financial or Material - theft, fraud, internet scamming, coercion in relation to an adult's financial affairs or arrangements (in connection with wills, property, inheritance etc).
- Neglect or Acts of Omission - includes ignoring medical or physical care needs or access to appropriate health, social care or educational services. The withdrawal of the necessities of life, including medication, adequate nutrition and heating.
- Emotional or Psychological - including threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, isolation, or withdrawal from services or supportive networks.

Four Additional Types of Harm not included in The Care Act but relevant to safeguarding adults:

- Cyber Bullying - occurs when someone (the perpetrator) repeatedly makes fun of another person online, through emails or text messages.
- Forced Marriage - describes a marriage in which one or both of the parties are married without their consent or against their will.
- Mate Crime - "when vulnerable people are befriended by members of the community who go onto exploit and take advantage of them" (Safety Network Project, ARC).
- Radicalisation - to inspire new recruits, embed extreme views and persuade vulnerable individuals to the legitimacy of a cause (through social media or a relationship).



Decision Making on behalf of the Adult Each home nation has legislation about circumstances in which decisions can be made on behalf of an adult who is unable to make decisions for themselves

- England and Wales - The Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Scotland - Adults with Incapacity Act 2000
- Mental Capacity (Northern Ireland) 2016

Unless a formal assessment of the adult has been made by a qualified practitioner (e.g. Doctor, mental health nurse) it should be assumed that the adult has capacity to make their own decisions.